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PATENT AMENDMENT

REMARKS

The present application is currently pending on appeal to the Board of Appeals. Applicants

have filed an Appeal Brief herein, and the Examiner has submitted an Answer thereto.

In the final Office Action before the appeal, dated October 14, 2005, the Examiner allowed

claims 4, 7 and 8, and rejected all other claims. Claims 4, 7 and 8 have therefore not been at issue

in the appeal.

In order to resolve the outstanding appeal and to obtain an early allowance, applicants are

cancelling all non-allowed claims, i.e., all claims other than claims 4,7 and 8. Some of the

cancelled claims were earlier withdrawn from consideration as a result of a restriction, and

inadvertently were not cancelled earlier.

In so doing, applicants are not conceding that the cancelled claims are not patentable over

the art cited by the Examiner, as the present paper is only for purpose of facilitating expeditious

prosecution of the allowable claims noted by the Examiner. Applicants respectfully reserve the right to pursue these and other claims in one or more continuations and/or divisional patent

applications.

In view of the foregoing, applicants submit that the remaining claims are in condition for

allowance, and respectfully request reconsideration and allowance of all claims. In addition, the

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Examiner is encouraged to contact applicants' attorney by telephone if there are outstanding issues left to be resolved to place this case in condition for allowance.

Respectfully submitted,

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